

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-20.

Please add the following new claims.

21. (New) A rule based computerized method of developing, implementing and administering legislation, the method including:-

developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be developed, written in and delivered;

utilizing the computerized database to develop the policy for the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

utilizing the computerized database to design the service to administer the legislation in accordance with the set of rules, and

utilizing the computerized database to administer and/or evaluate the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

wherein the policy development, writing of legislation, service design, administration and/or evaluation are functionally integrated by the computerized database;

wherein the rules are such as can be expressed in the general format “IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]”;

wherein the policy development includes at least one of the following functions: policy analysis, development of policy options, public consultation, testing and refining policy;

wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation;

wherein the service design includes at least one of the following functions: testing impact of final legislation, translation of legislation into operational policy, data requirements analysis, design of service delivery structures and systems, public education;

wherein the administration includes at least one of the following functions: public education, staff training, delivery of services;

wherein the evaluation includes at least one of the following functions: design of policy impact measurement, measurement of policy impact;

wherein the rules are written in a spoken language, the method further including:-

converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylised or symbolic format or representation;

wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules; and

wherein the format or representation includes:-

an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or

a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or

a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions.

22. (New) A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:-

developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written; and

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules;

wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure; and

wherein the agreed legislative drafting conventions are incorporated in a computer model, the method further including:-

providing enhancements to the task of editing when drafting legislation whereby the use of the legislative drafting conventions is facilitated;

creating a legislative parser to convert the text of the legislation to a form that can be checked against the computer model and to report any failures to the drafter of the legislation;

creating facilities to import the parsed legislation into a pre-existing legislative rulebase technology, and to generate a rulebase; and

creating a testing methodology whereby the drafter of the legislation can specify and test an appropriate range of cases against the legislation.

23. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 21, for developing, implementing and administering legislation.

24. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 22 of writing legislation.

25. (New) A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:-  
developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules expressed in the general format “IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]” in accordance with which the legislation can be written; and

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

wherein the rules are written in a spoken language and in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, and

wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation,

the method further including:-

converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylised or symbolic format or representation; and

wherein the format or representation includes:-

an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or

a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or

a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions.

26. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 25 of writing legislation.

27. (New) A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, wherein a computerized database is developed containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, the rules being written in a spoken language and in a format or representation

corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, the computerized database being utilised to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules; the method including:-

developing a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions which constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure;

designing a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions;

providing enhancements to the task of editing when drafting legislation whereby the use of the legislative drafting conventions is facilitated;

creating a legislative parser to convert the text of the legislation to a form that can be checked against the computer model and to report any failures to the drafter of the legislation;

creating facilities to import the parsed legislation into a pre-existing legislative rulebase technology, and to generate a rulebase; and

creating a testing methodology whereby the drafter of the legislation can specify and test an appropriate range of cases against the legislation.

28. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 27 of writing legislation.

29. (New) A rule based computerized system for developing, implementing and administering legislation, the system including:-

a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be developed, written and delivered, wherein the rules are written in a spoken language and in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules; and

program means for executing the set of rules to develop the policy for the legislation and/or to write the legislation and/or to administer the legislation and/or to evaluate the legislation, including means for:

developing a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions which constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure;

designing a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions;

and

converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylised or symbolic format or representation;

wherein the format or representation includes:-

an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or  
a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or  
a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions;

wherein the policy development, writing of legislation, service design, administration and/or evaluation are functionally integrated by the computerized database.

30. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that provides a system as claimed in claim 29 for developing, implementing and administering legislation.

31. (New) A rule based computerized system for writing legislation, the system including:-

a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, wherein the rules are written in a spoken language and in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules and

program means for executing the set of rules to write the legislation, including means for:  
developing a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions which constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure;

designing a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions;  
and

converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylised or symbolic format or representation;

wherein the format or representation includes:-

an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or  
a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or  
a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions.

32. (New) A rule based computerized system for writing legislation as claimed in claim 31, wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and wherein the program means utilises a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions.

33. (New) A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a system as claimed in claim 31, for writing legislation.